Attachment F

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK 21 MC 97 (AKH) 4 5 IN RE: SEPTEMBER 11 6 7 LITIGATION 8 9 10 SWORN WITNESS STATEMENT TAKEN BY VIDEOTAPE 11 CONFIDENTIAL 12 13 DATE: October 26, 2004 14 TIME: 11:15 AM 15 LOCATION: Law Offices of Motley Rice, LLC 28 Bridgeside Boulevard 16 Mt. Pleasant, SC 17 TAKEN BY: Counsel for the Plaintiffs 18 REPORTED BY: TERRI L. BRUSSEAU, Registered Professional 19 Reporter, CP, CRR

12

- 8 me your educational background and your
- 9 professional background?
- 10 A. I have a Bachelor of Science degree
- 11 from the University of Tennessee. I have an
- 12 Associate's degree in the Spanish language from a
- 13 college in Arizona. I was a municipal police
- 14 officer, an immigration inspector, a border patrol
- 15 agent, an antismuggling agent with U.S. Immigration
- 16 and then I was a senior special agent with the
- 17 Joint Terrorism Task Force in Newark, New Jersey.
- Q. During what period of time were you
- 19 assigned to Newark Airport?
- A. I would work at Newark Airport on an
- 21 infrequent basis and on a regular basis between the
- 22 years of 1987 and 2002.
- Q. What time frame did you spend working
- 24 with the Joint Terrorism Task Force?
- A. I started working with the Joint

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1 Terrorism Task Force in 1987 on an irregular basis

- 2 and I -- in 1995, I was assigned on a full-time
- 3 basis until I retired in 2002.
- 4 Q. What is the Joint Terrorism Task Force?
- 5 A. The Joint Terrorism Task Force is a
- 6 group of agents from various federal law
- 7 enforcement agencies as well as in New Jersey from
- 8 the Port Authority police, the Hudson County
- 9 prosecutor's office, the New Jersey state police.
- 10 The federal agencies would include the Secret
- 11 Service, the CIA, U.S. Customs, U.S. Immigration,
- 12 and I'm sure there's some others I've forgotten.
- Q. Did you have the opportunity while
- 14 working with the Joint Terrorism Task Force or
- 15 while working in immigration at Newark to interview
- 16 suspects over a -- over that period of time during
- 17 your career?
- 18 A. Sure.
- 19 Q. How many an estimate would you say that
- 20 you perhaps interviewed?
- A. Literally hundreds.
- Q. During the time that you were stationed
- 23 both frequently and infrequently during various

- 24 times between 1987 and the year 2002, did you have
- 25 an opportunity to review security at Newark

- 1 Airport?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How would you describe the security
- 4 between 1987 and before the September 11th attacks?
- 5 A. Very bad.
- 6 Q. Can you give me any sort of specific
- 7 examples of sort of what you witnessed and why you
- 8 came to the conclusion that it was bad?
- 9 A. Majority of the personnel I would -- I
- 10 witnessed and sometimes would be on a daily basis,
- 11 sometimes an hourly basis because there was many,
- 12 many days I would spend the entire day at Newark
- 13 Airport going from terminal to terminal. The
- 14 majority, and by the majority I mean a high
- 15 percentage of majority, probably 90 percent plus,
- 16 appeared to me to be illiterate, not very well
- 17 educated, some of them had a difficult time

- 18 understanding English, they were not observant,
- 19 they did not do a good job, and this was on a daily
- 20 basis for a long time. I observed this and it was
- 21 actually a joke amongst other law enforcement
- 22 personnel when we would talk about these people.
- 23 We would literally laugh at what they were doing.
- Q. Laugh because?
- A. They were not doing a good job. It was

- 1 scary.
- Q. Did you feel as though during that
- 3 period of time that there was a threat of some sort
- 4 of incident with respect to Newark Airport?
- 5 A. I felt that if someone wanted to carry
- 6 out an illegal act, they would not have a difficult
- 7 time doing it at all. All's one would have to do
- 8 would be observe these people for a couple hours
- 9 and they'd figure out a way to accomplish whatever
- 10 they wanted to do.
- 11 Q. Have you had the opportunity on the

- 12 general news to have seen the Dulles screening
- 13 video that was played by ABC and CBS?
- 14 A. Yes.
- Q. And how would you compare the security
- 16 that was conducted on that video to what was
- 17 happening at Newark Airport from 1987 to before
- 18 2001?
- 19 A. Similar or worse.
- Q. Meaning that the security at Newark was
- 21 worse than what was depicted on the security at
- 22 Dulles?
- A. By a lot of the people that worked
- 24 there, sure.
- Q. Did there ever come a time during your

- 1 work in Newark that there were any investigations
- 2 that were done of any of the individuals working
- 3 for security screening companies or other companies
- 4 at the airport?
- 5 A. Yes.

- 6 Q. Can you describe for us what that
- 7 investigation was?
- 8 A. It was an investigation that -- it was
- 9 prior to 9/11. I would say this investigation took
- 10 place in -- sometime after 1995 and prior to 1999,
- 11 an agent -- an immigration agent carried out this
- 12 investigation and it was something everybody knew
- 13 and he finally brought it to a head and he
- 14 determined there was well over a hundred, maybe 200
- 15 illegal aliens working at the airport that had
- 16 access to all areas of the airport, secured,
- 17 nonsecured, they all had -- a majority of them had
- 18 badges to swipe to get in through the doors of
- 19 various segments of the airport. These would be
- 20 cleaning personnel, all types -- just any type of
- 21 personnel you could dream of that worked at the
- 22 airport.
- So along with the Port Authority
- 24 police, probably the entire staff of the
- 25 immigration office, special agents conducted a raid

- 1 at the airport at shift change in order to get both
- 2 shifts and they arrested -- they filled up two
- 3 buses. I would say well over a hundred, definitely
- 4 over a hundred, possibly over 150 people were
- 5 arrested at that time at Newark Airport and all
- 6 these people were illegal aliens working at the
- 7 airport. It was a disgrace.
- 8 Q. Did any of the people -- were any of
- 9 the people arrested employees for any of the
- 10 security screening companies that were doing
- 11 security at the airport?
- 12 A. Possibly. I couldn't say for sure.
- 13 There was just so many people arrested. And at the
- 14 time I wasn't concentrating on that aspect of it
- 15 so -- it's very possible but I don't know for sure.
- 16 The important thing is that these people had the
- 17 cards, the swipe cards, and these were the people
- 18 that were cleaning the aircraft, a majority of
- 19 them. These people had total access to the
- 20 aircraft when there was nobody around. It's --

- 21 just thinking about it scares me today. I mean, it
- 22 just wasn't right.
- 23 And then there would be -- after this
- 24 operation took place and the word got around that
- 25 this agent was interested in anyone else that the

- 1 various companies and Port Authority and the
- 2 airlines would hire, they would call him up and
- 3 make him aware of these illegal aliens working at
- 4 the airport but he was not permitted to follow up.
- 5 Q. So even after these arrests, the
- 6 problem of hiring illegal aliens either by the
- 7 airlines, security screening companies --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. -- continued?
- 10 A. Yes.
- Q. Did not improve?
- 12 A. No, it did not improve.
- Q. Was it a well-known event at the -- at
- 14 Newark Airport at that time that all these people

- 15 had been arrested?
- 16 A. Oh, yeah, because people when they came
- 17 into work early the next morning, nothing was
- 18 accomplished because all of their staff were
- 19 arrested.
- Q. During your time with the Joint
- 21 Terrorism Task Force, you said you sort of worked
- 22 with them on an interim basis starting in 1987?
- A. Correct.
- Q. Did you ever have an opportunity to
- 25 investigate anything related to the World Trade

- 1 Center bombing in '93 or any other terrorist
- 2 incidents related to Islamic fundamentalist
- 3 activity?
- 4 A. Yes, I was involved in the first World
- 5 Trade Center attack with the -- along with the
- 6 Blind Sheikh, with the -- any segment of the
- 7 operations that took place in New Jersey, I was
- 8 involved in -- I would say on the periphery. I

- 9 wasn't really a case agent like I would become
- 10 after 1995 but I would assist in the processing of
- 11 aliens and doing background checks on various
- 12 people that were under investigation, et cetera, et
- 13 cetera.
- Q. Who was the main perpetrator of the
- 15 World Trade Center attack in 1993?
- 16 A. Well, there was a lot of people
- 17 involved but I would say Ramzi Yousef.
- Q. Did Ramzi Yousef have plans to conduct
- 19 any other terrorist attacks?
- A. Well, after the initial World Trade
- 21 Center, I believe -- no, I don't believe, I know,
- 22 he was the individual that fermented, created,
- 23 dreamt up the Bojinka plot to highjack 12 airplanes
- 24 simultaneously.
- Q. Did the Bojinka plot, was that an event

- 1 that you learned through some sort of classified
- 2 information or was this an event that you became

- 3 familiar with from public source information?
- 4 A. Newark was not involved in that
- 5 investigation in any way, shape or form. No, I
- 6 would not have learned of it through any -- through
- 7 any of my work. I learned about it just reading
- 8 the newspaper, Time, Newsweek, et cetera, et
- 9 cetera. It was just all over the press.
- 10 Q. Was -- did that change your thinking
- 11 with respect to the threat or did it reinforce what
- 12 you already knew about the threat posed to aviation
- 13 from Islamic fundamentalist groups?
- 14 A. All's it did was serve to reinforce.
- 15 It was something we always knew was possible.
- Q. Did there ever come a time where you --
- 17 let me ask one other question before I get to that.
- Were there general statements given by
- 19 Islamic fundamentalists that they had the intent to
- 20 attack the United States?
- A. Prior to 9/11, yes. There were
- 22 statements, there were threats, there was -- yeah.
- 23 There was a fatwah or a statement given by the
- 24 Blind Sheikh that was arrested in Jersey City out

25 of a prison where I believe it was smuggled out by

- 1 his attorney, a female attorney. I forget her
- 2 name. It might have been Lynn Stewart, I'm not
- 3 sure. But he talked about hijacking planes,
- 4 killing as many people as possible. And this was
- 5 well before 9/11 and I believe this woman is being
- 6 prosecuted for that as we speak.
- 7 Q. Was there any connection between the
- 8 Blind Sheik and Ramzi Yousef or Osama Bin Laden or
- 9 al-Qaeda, is he in any way --
- 10 A. They're all connected. They're all
- 11 interconnected.
- 12 Q. Did there ever come a time where you
- 13 began investigation concerning anyone who posed an
- 14 immediate -- or who claimed to be planning to
- 15 hijack aircraft in the United States?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. Who was that?
- 18 A. Niaz Khan.

- 19 Q. How did you come to meet Niaz Khan?
- A. Niaz Khan turned himself in to the
- 21 Atlantic City police department in I believe
- 22 sometime around April of 2000. He advised the
- 23 Atlantic City police that he was sent to the United
- 24 States to hijack an aircraft. As soon as the
- 25 Atlantic City police heard that, they notified the

- 1 local office of the FBI in Atlantic City. Since
- 2 that office did not handle terrorism, they called
- 3 up the Terrorism Task Force in Newark, New Jersey.
- 4 Two agents responded, picked up Niaz Khan and
- 5 brought him up to Newark and that's when I first
- 6 met him.
- 7 Q. This was the spring of 2000, is that --
- 8 A. April, I believe.
- 9 Q. April of 2000.
- 10 A. 2000.
- 11 Q. And did you have an opportunity to meet
- 12 with Niaz Khan and to ask him questions?

- A. I dealt with him on a daily basis until
- 14 I actually escorted him back to England.
- Q. How -- what time period did Niaz Khan
- 16 spend with you or with the Joint Terrorism Task
- 17 Force in Newark?
- 18 A. The exact dates I can't recall but it
- 19 was from approximately the first week of April
- 20 until about Easter of 2000. I remember I returned
- 21 to the U.S. after Easter Sunday of 2000 so it was
- 22 from the first week of April until Easter of 2000.
- Q. So roughly two, three, four weeks?
- A. Exactly.
- Q. What did Niaz Khan tell you about his

- 1 intent to hijack an aircraft?
- A. He told us the whole story. We
- 3 spent -- literally spent -- 24 hours a day, seven
- 4 days a week there was someone with him at all
- 5 times. He was never incarcerated. He was either
- 6 kept in a motel room or in a safe house and always

- 7 with an agent. Basically, he was a gambler. He
- 8 was addicted to gambling. One night prior to when
- 9 we encountered him in April, so I would have to say
- 10 it was sometime in March of 2000, I'm just
- 11 guessing, he left a casino in Manchester, England,
- 12 having lost all of his money and there was two
- 13 individuals outside the casino in a vehicle. They
- 14 approached him.
- 15 They talked to him for a long period of
- 16 time and they basically -- they recruited him to
- 17 hijack an airplane. I guess he was
- 18 psychologically -- I can't think of the word at the
- 19 time but he was weak at that point in his life. He
- 20 was I guess financially destitute. They offered
- 21 him some dough and he took them up on their offer.
- 22 He didn't go home and he flew to Lahore, Pakistan.
- Q. When he arrived in Lahore, what did
- 24 he -- what happened after he arrived in Lahore?
- A. He arrived in Lahore, he was told to go

- 1 to a specific hotel or guest house, I forget, I
- 2 think it was a hotel, and he was met there the next
- 3 day by an individual. I don't recall the specifics
- 4 about that individual. And he was blind folded,
- 5 driven outside of Lahore to a guest house
- 6 surrounded by a high wall and there he went through
- 7 a week to ten days of training to prepare him for
- 8 hijacking an aircraft.
- 9 Q. Did you learn what he was taught
- 10 specifically about how to hijack an aircraft?
- 11 A. I can't recall everything he said. It
- 12 was a lot, probably a lot more than I can remember
- 13 what he said because I don't have the file in front
- 14 of me. But he was given small arms training. They
- 15 had a target in the courtyard of the build -- of
- 16 the house that was surrounded by this wall where he
- 17 took target practice. He viewed photos and
- 18 videotapes of aircraft, various types of aircraft.
- 19 He had physical defense type training using his
- 20 hands.
- I believe he was taught -- I don't know

- 22 if he was taught in the use of a knife but I recall
- 23 him talking about using a knife and when he used
- 24 the knife he was taught to cut the throat because
- 25 that would produce the most blood to put fear into

- 1 the other passengers. I remember him talking about
- 2 that. That's mainly what I can remember. But it
- 3 was very specific in the hijacking of an aircraft.
- 4 That was the sole purpose of his trip to Lahore,
- 5 Pakistan.
- 6 Q. Was Niaz -- did Niaz Khan ever discuss
- 7 whether if this operation was to be a martyrdom
- 8 operation or did he have the mindset at the time
- 9 that he might have to kill himself in order to
- 10 carry out this attack?
- 11 A. I remember this specifically. He said
- 12 that if the mission required it, he would be -- he
- 13 would -- you know, he would -- he wouldn't mind --
- 14 he didn't mind dying. But he was led to believe
- 15 that it was not going to be a suicide mission, that

- 16 it was going to be a hijacking, but if the
- 17 hijacking went bad, then they would blow the plane
- 18 up or crash or do something like that but he was
- 19 willing to die.
- Q. He was willing to die. Did -- after
- 21 Niaz received this training, what did they -- what
- 22 did he do next?
- A. He was then given tickets and he flew a
- 24 circuitous route prior to landing at JFK in New
- 25 York. I know he went to London, but from London he

- 1 went to Zurich and I believe one other European
- 2 city, then back to London and to JFK Airport.
- Q. And when he arrived in JFK Airport,
- 4 what was he -- what did he do next?
- 5 A. He was told to rendezvous with an
- 6 individual by the name of Babu Khan at a taxi
- 7 stand, that's B-A-B-U K-H-A-N, Babu Khan, at a taxi
- 8 stand. He got cold feet, he chickened out. I
- 9 guess somehow he learned about Atlantic City.

- 10 Maybe he read something on the airplane on the way
- 11 over, I don't know. But he took a bus to Atlantic
- 12 City and he blew all the cash they gave him for
- 13 expenses on the gambling tables at one of the
- 14 casinos in Atlantic City.
- Q. So he had gambled away the money that
- 16 he was given by --
- 17 A. Oh, yeah. We have the -- we recovered
- 18 the videotapes of him gambling and losing his money
- 19 in Atlantic City. We saw it on the videotapes.
- 20 Those videotapes the FBI have and, yes, no
- 21 question.
- Q. After he lost his money that had been
- 23 given to him by members of al-Qaeda, did he -- what
- 24 did he do next?
- A. Turned himself over to the Atlantic

- 1 City police department.
- Q. And then is that how you met him?
- 3 A. Yes.

- 4 Q. During your two, three-week period with
- 5 Niaz Khan, did you make an assessment as to whether
- 6 or not he was truthful or not truthful?
- 7 A. Initially we didn't believe him. We
- 8 just thought, hey, this guy is -- you know, this
- 9 guy is just a whack job, there's just no way we
- 10 believed him. But the more we talked to him, the
- 11 more we spent time with him, we started to believe
- 12 him. And then he was polygraphed and he was
- 13 polygraphed by probably the best polygrapher the
- 14 FBI has and he works in Newark. And he passed,
- 15 showed absolutely no deception, and he kept the
- 16 story throughout the entire time we were with him
- 17 so everyone in Newark that had anything to do with
- 18 Niaz Khan believed he was telling the truth.
- 19 Q. During your -- let me show you
- 20 something here. Do you recognize what these are?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. I'd like to mark that as the first
- 23 exhibit. What are these?
- A. These are -- Niaz sat down with a New
- 25 Jersey state police sketch artist and these are the

- 1 individuals -- the two individuals that recruited
- 2 him at the casino and one of his trainers in
- 3 Lahore, Pakistan, outside of Lahore, Pakistan.
- 4 Q. Could you show these to the camera?
- 5 A. Sure.
- 6 MR. ELSNER: Can you get a zoom-in shot
- 7 of those?
- 8 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: Sure.
- 9 THE WITNESS: This -- these are --
- 10 that's the same. These would be, I believe --
- 11 these would be the two individuals that recruited
- 12 him at the casino in England and this is one of his
- 13 teachers at the location he was trained at outside
- 14 of Lahore, Pakistan.
- MR. ELSNER: Why don't we mark these
- 16 instead as exhibit 1, 2 and 3.
- 17 (PLF. EXH. 1, sketch, was marked
- 18 for identification.)
- 19 (PLF. EXH. 2, sketch, was marked

- 20 for identification.)
- 21 (PLF. EXH. 3, sketch, was marked
- for identification.)
- 23 BY MR. ELSNER:
- Q. After performing these sketches, after
- 25 conducting a polygraph examination, did the FBI

- 1 create any documents that they distributed that
- 2 describes the threat that Niaz Khan posed to
- 3 aviation?
- 4 A. Sure. There were constant
- 5 communications, both oral and written, between the
- 6 Newark division and FBI headquarters in Washington,
- 7 DC and there were teletype -- there was a teletype
- 8 prepared that was sent out to various government --
- 9 U.S. Government agencies.
- 10 Q. Let me show you this. Do you
- 11 recognize -- I'm going to mark this as exhibit 4.
- 12 Do you recognize this document?
- 13 A. Yes, this is an unclassified teletype

- 14 prepared by my partner, who I worked with during
- 15 this investigation.
- 16 (PLF. EXH. 4, teletype, was marked
- 17 for identification.)
- 18 BY MR. ELSNER:
- 19 Q. What is the subject of the -- of the
- 20 teletype and what is the teletype's date?
- A. The date of this teletype is April
- 22 10th, 2000 and this talks about Niaz Khan and the
- 23 al-Qaeda plot to hijack an aircraft in the United
- 24 States.
- Q. Is there -- have you had an opportunity

- 1 to review this teletype and is it accurate?
- 2 A. I read it this morning prior to this
- 3 interview and, yes, it's extremely accurate. This
- 4 is exactly what I recall happening.
- 5 Q. The distribution of this teletype, did
- 6 it include anyone within the -- you know, had some
- 7 involvement with aviation security?

- 8 A. Yes. It says right here, FAA national
- 9 headquarters in Washington, DC, immediate. An
- 10 immediate teletype means that they are to take
- 11 action on it immediately. There are different
- 12 classifications of teletypes and this one is an
- 13 immediate.
- Q. The teletype states that there was a
- 15 subject affiliated with Osama Bin Laden who may
- 16 highjack a U.S.-based airliner from the New York
- 17 metropolitan area. Is that an accurate statement?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. The -- have you -- after -- after you
- 20 had -- after these teletypes were written after
- 21 Niaz Khan had done his polygraph examination, what
- 22 happened with Niaz-Khan next?
- A. Myself and the author of this teletype
- 24 escorted him back to Heathrow Airport in United
- 25 Kingdom at the direction of FBI headquarters.

1 Q. What was the reason that he was sent

- 2 back to the United Kingdom instead of kept in the
- 3 United States?
- 4 A. Well, I can only give you an answer
- 5 based upon my experience. I don't know the exact
- 6 reason because it's not -- I never saw -- I wasn't
- 7 involved in the telecommunications regarding his
- 8 removal to the United Kingdom nor was I privy to
- 9 any written communications regarding as to why he
- 10 was brought back, I can only surmise. I can only
- 11 give you an educated guess. Well, one is not a
- 12 guess. The U.S. Attorney in Newark refused to
- 13 prosecute Niaz Khan. The exact reasons, I don't
- 14 recall. Maybe we didn't have enough evidence.
- Number two, the conspiracy was hatched
- 16 in England. He was recruited in England by these
- 17 two individuals who you just saw the photos, the
- 18 sketches of, and the FBI rightly so reasoned that,
- 19 hey, let's send him back to England and let them
- 20 start the investigation right from the beginning to
- 21 find -- to apprehend these two individuals, do a
- 22 complete background investigation on them, find out

- 23 who they are, who they're associated with and do a
- 24 total investigation. The FBI in America wouldn't
- 25 be capable of doing that. That would have to be

- 1 done by the English authorities. And since Niaz
- 2 Khan was a citizen of the United Kingdom and that's
- 3 where his family was and that's where he resided,
- 4 they figured that -- I guess they figured that was
- 5 the best thing to do.
- 6 Q. Do you know whether the authorities in
- 7 the United Kingdom did any follow-up effort
- 8 concerning Niaz Khan?
- 9 A. In the last couple months I learned
- 10 exactly what happened, I learned exactly what
- 11 happened, and it's an absolute disgrace. There was
- 12 absolutely no follow-up by the British authorities,
- 13 none.
- 14 Q. Have you -- Niaz Khan has given a
- 15 statement to plaintiffs in this case. And have you
- 16 had the opportunity to -- I'm going to mark this as

- 17 the next exhibit, exhibit 5.
- 18 (PLF. EXH. 5, statement, was marked
- 19 for identification.)
- 20 BY MR. ELSNER:
- Q. Have you had the opportunity to review
- 22 his deposition or statement? It's not really a
- 23 deposition, his statement or interview given to
- 24 plaintiffs in this case?
- A. Yes, I have.

- 1 Q. Do you -- is -- are the statements made
- 2 by Niaz Khan consistent with the statements that he
- 3 made to the FBI in 2000 before September 11th?
- 4 A. Absolutely.
- 5 Q. Do you find that the statements that
- 6 he's making in this particular statement for
- 7 plaintiffs to be accurate and consistent with his
- 8 story as he's told it since early 2000?
- 9 A. Yes.
- MR. ELSNER: Go off the record for a

- 11 second.
- 12 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: I'm off the record.
- 13 (Off-the-record conference.)
- 14 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: And we're back on
- 15 the record.
- 16 BY MR. ELSNER:
- Q. After the attacks on September 11th,
- 18 2001, did you -- were you involved in any
- 19 investigations concerning the September 11th
- 20 attacks?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. How were you involved?
- A. I was totally immersed in the
- 24 investigation of Flight 93, the hijacking of the
- 25 aircraft from Newark Airport. I was a team leader.

- 1 Q. After the September 11th investigation
- 2 or during the September 11th investigation, were
- 3 you involved in any other investigations of attacks
- 4 against U.S. citizens?

- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Who is that? Who was that?
- 7 A. Danny Pearl.
- 8 Q. And can you tell us about that
- 9 investigation generally? What time frame was it?
- 10 A. That was in -- started in January of
- 11 2002. A group of agents were sent to Karachi,
- 12 Pakistan to investigate Danny Pearl's kidnapping.
- Q. And during that investigation, did you
- 14 learn anything about any of the perpetrators
- 15 involved in the kidnapping and assassination?
- 16 A. Sure. We identified one, two, three or
- 17 four of the kidnappers as well as the leader, Omar
- 18 Sheikh.
- 19 Q. Who is Omar Sheikh?
- A. Omar Sheikh is a radical fundamentalist
- 21 who was educated at the London School of Economics
- 22 in London. I've never met him but I know he speaks
- 23 fluent English, he has an extremely Muslim
- 24 fundamentalist terrorist -- slash terrorist
- 25 background. He was incarcerated in India for his

- 1 terrorist acts in that country and, as a matter of
- 2 fact, was released from prison because of an
- 3 aircraft that was highjacked out of I believe Nepal
- 4 in 1999.
- 5 Q. The aircraft that was highjacked, do
- 6 you know where that aircraft landed and what
- 7 happened after --
- 8 A. Well, it landed in a couple of places
- 9 but it ended up in Afghanistan, I believe Kandahar.
- 10 Q. And Afghanistan at that period of time
- 11 was -- who is -- where was -- under whose control
- 12 was --
- 13 A. Taliban.
- 14 Q. And after the plane landed, what took
- 15 place next with respect to the hijacking?
- A. Well, I believe there was a trade. The
- 17 passengers were released and I believe two or three
- 18 individuals were released from custody in India,
- 19 one of whom was Omar Sheikh.
- Q. And after Omar Sheikh's release, did he

- 21 have any affiliation with al-Qaeda or with --
- A. Yes. Oh, yeah, he was involved in
- 23 al-Qaeda all the way. He was train -- he was
- 24 involved in -- he -- I know he definitely was a
- 25 trainer for Osama Bin Laden in the al-Qaeda

- 1 training camps.
- 2 O. So this is another incident in which
- 3 al-Qaeda members were involved with a threat to
- 4 aviation?
- 5 A. Yes. Sure.
- 6 Q. Based on this India hijacking, the plot
- 7 that you had described earlier, the plot --
- 8 A. Bojinka plot.
- 9 Q. -- in 1994 and the statement given to
- 10 you by Niaz Khan, how would you characterize the
- 11 threat to civil aviation in the United States from
- 12 Islamic fundamentalists?
- 13 A. I'd say it was very likely, very likely
- 14 to happen based upon everything I learned -- with

- 15 the accumulation of everything I learned throughout
- 16 my years and then especially after 9/11, it was --
- 17 it was all there for everybody to see but nobody
- 18 saw it.
- 19 Q. Was the -- was the information about
- 20 plan Bojinka, the Air India hijacking, Yousef's
- 21 plot against the U.S., the Blind Sheikh's fatwah,
- 22 generally public information that anyone
- 23 investigating aviation security would be aware of?
- A. Well, sure, most of this I learned
- 25 through public information. I wasn't involved in

- 1 all of these investigations.
- 2 Q. Did you -- from 1987 until the '93
- 3 Trade Center bombing, the '94 plan Bojinka, the '99
- 4 Air India incident, throughout that period did you
- 5 recognize increased hike in security or training
- 6 given to security screeners at Newark International
- 7 Airport?
- 8 A. Definitely not.

- 9 Q. How would you characterize Newark's
- 10 security system in light of these threats to civil
- 11 aviation?
- 12 A. Really bad.
- 13 MR. ELSNER: I have no other questions.
- 14 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: And I've stopped.
- 15 (A recess transpired.)
- 16 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: And we're back on.
- 17 BY MR. ELSNER:
- Q. Sorry, there was one question I wanted
- 19 to ask you. Could you review this document for me?
- 20 Have you seen this document?
- A. Well, I've seen similar documentation.
- 22 I've never seen this one.
- Q. How would -- what would -- what type of
- 24 document is this?
- A. Appears to be an FBI 302.

- 1 Q. Are you familiar with generally how FBI
- 2 302's are written?

A. Sure, I've written hundreds, maybe a thousand or more of them. Q. Does this appear to be an accurate 302 based on your experience and expertise? A. Yes, it does. MR. ELSNER: Okay, no further questions. Thank you. VIDEO TECHNICIAN: We're stopped. (WHEREUPON, the proceedings concluded at 11:56 AM.)

Terri L. Brusseau,

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19	My Commission expires		
	May 7, 2006.		
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